

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 remain in this application. Applicants believe that no new matter is added to the application as part of this response.

1. Amendments

Claim 18 has been rewritten to recite the materials and gases emitted from the burner regions as structural limitations. Each burner region is coupled to a source of the recited gas or mixture. While these claim elements are not described *in ipso verbis* in the application as filed, Applicant submits they are inherent in the structure and operation of the apparatus as described. For example, at page 10, lines 1-8 of the application as filed, a gas delivery system for introducing the various gases and mixtures to the burner is described.

Claim 22 has been rewritten to begin with -An-, as suggested in the Examiner's objection.

No new matter is believed to be added to the application by these amendments.

2. Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claim 22 because it should begin with -An-. The appropriate correction has been made.

3. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kawazoe (U.S. Patent 4,826,520).

Claim 18 has been rewritten to recite the materials and gases emitted from the burner regions as structural limitations. Each burner region is coupled to a source of the recited gas or mixture. Applicant submits that the gas sources are now recited structurally, and that the claim is therefore now structurally distinguishable over the prior art. Applicant therefore requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) of claim 18 based on Kawazoe.

4. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawazoe.

Claim 19 depends from claim 18, and is believed to be patentable for the same reasons as described above with reference to claim 18. Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection thereof under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on the Kawazoe.

5. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes the Examiner's indication that claims 1-17 and 22 are allowed.

Applicant notes the Examiner's indication that claims 20 and 21 recite allowable subject matter. Since claim 18 is believed to be allowable, Applicant submits that claims 20 and 21 are likewise allowable, and requests that the Examiner withdraw the objections thereto.

6. Conclusion

Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of record, Applicant believes the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the cited references. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims and prompt further action thereon.

Applicant believes that no extension of time is necessary to make this Response timely. Should Applicant be in error, Applicant respectfully requests that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Appl. No.: 09/787,399
Response Dated: 1/8/04
Reply to Office Action of: 10/14/03

Please direct any questions or comments to James V. Suggs at 607/974-3606.

Date: 1-8-04

Respectfully submitted,

CORNING INCORPORATED

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JVS', is written over a horizontal line.

James V. Suggs

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